Boston, March 9, 1860.

Dear friend Webb;

Yours of Feb. 17. was recd. March 6th.— I am sorry and somewhat surprised that the parcel of books, &c. which I sent you had not then come to hand.— We duly recd. Mrs. Martineau's receipt;— that is all settled, and quite right.— A copy of Redpath's Life of Brown, for yourself, (& several for other people) was in the parcel above referred to. I doubt not you will be both pleased & (occasionally) displeased with the book. Apart from some offences against good taste, its most objectionable feature is, I think, the prominence it gives to John Brown as a *fighting* man. Some time we shall have, I hope, a "Life", from Mrs. Child's pen, which will do full justice to Brown's great thought, and generous, *tender* character. I doubt if Redpath's book, on the whole, greatly pleases our English friends.— Since that parcel went, I have sent you nothing. There has been an almost total dearth of vessels going direct from this port to Liverpool, and I have not thought it best to incur the cost of carriage from Boston to New York. Before a great while I hope to send a quantity of A.S. books & pamphlets, to be distributed among some 6, 8, or 10 of the principal AntiSlavery places in G.B. and Id. This is S.J. May's favorite measure, & one he promised some of the English friends that he would forward so far as he could. Such a collection as we can make, on any reasonable terms, we hope to send soon. I will then send some portraits of Brown,— but I fear I cannot make *them* gratuitous. The Photographs from Brackett's bust are $2. each; they are

very handsome, — but I ~~should not~~ shall hardly feel at liberty to buy these (for yourself, or Mrs. Palmer, or ~~Miss~~ Harvey, or others,) unless you expressly so write to me.

I caused a copy of Mr. Seward's late Speech to be sent to you by the last Steamer. I hope you will have time to give it a thorough reading, and favor us with your judgment of it. It was undoubtedly prepared with express reference to what the Republican leaders believe to be the needs & policy of the party at this crisis. Here I must close, sending you a few remarks on the Speech, which, if you think fit for the Advocate, can be used. Truly yrs

S. May, Jr.

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spoke it, he knew he was not speaking the truth. I know this sounds harsh, but ~~to~~ to what different ~~judgment~~ conclusion can we come? Mr. Seward deliberately places such States as Arkansas, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Texas, ~~above~~ in the moral, social, and political scale, above any foreign State he knows; ~~above~~ States where the education of the entire laboring population is absolutely prohibited by law and custom, under the heaviest penalties, ~~States~~ where no instance of marriage exists, or is allowed to exist, in the case of four millions of working people, States where no legal protection is ever given to any member of the working-classes against any outrage which his owner may inflict, States guilty of a system which is only a synonym for the "sum of all villainies", above Scotland, England, Sweden, Germany, Prussia! What a despicable piece of obsequiousness before the Slaveholding Senate and States! How are the mighty fallen! How low they will stoop, in the hope of a nomination to the Presidential office!

(1.) The late Speech of Senator Seward.

The great event in the political world here, recently, is the Speech of ~~Senator~~ Mr. Seward, of New York, in the United States Senate. Ever since his return ~~to the country~~ from Europe, about the first of January, an earnest interest has been felt to ~~know~~ hear what he would say on the present state of our national affairs. After ~~a~~ a long ~~delay~~ interval, caused chiefly no doubt by the delay in choosing a Speaker of the House, whereby the organization of Congress was prevented, Mr. Seward delivered his speech on the 29th of February. It has been already very widely circulated, and is undergoing the criticism and judgment of all presses, parties, and men. It is an able speech, in point of scholarship, historical research and illustration, and power of language. That it is strictly argumentative, and very calm and dispassionate throughout, is no objection to it certainly, although he was addressing men, from all the Slaveholding States, little accustomed to give ~~weight~~ ear to the conclusions of calm reason, or to take counsel of aught but their own will, and the policy dictated by the immediate needs of the Slaveholding interest. — I think this is all that can be said in favor of the speech by any sincere and consistent opponent of Slavery. Its coldness, its lack of moral sympathy with any movement for the abolition of slavery or with the four millions of slaves in the land, is painful to those, who thought

or who hoped that Mr. Seward would not forget, or disown, his own doctrine, that between Freedom and Slavery in this country there is an irrepressible Conflict. No hint or intimation of this kind appears in the Senator's late speech. He addresses the Slave-holding Senators, as coming from Capital States, in distinction from the northern, which he calls Labor States! Why this new and forced nomenclature? What he means is well enough known, and it does not, and will not, increase the respect felt for Mr. Seward that he does not say what he means. And why suppress his known sentiments and opinions about Slavery? Why address the Slaveholding States in ~~[illegible]~~ the language of ~~peace~~ conciliation? Mark the consequence. Already the leading Republican journals, taking their cue from Mr. Seward, are denying ~~th~~ (See the Boston Atlas and Bee of March 9th) that Mr. Seward is an abolitionist, or in any sense a man of radical views on the question of Slavery!! Oh, what sad developements of character, what lamentable looseness of moral principle, does a life of politics~~t~~, and especially it would seem American Politics, produce! ~~give rise to~~ He calls our National preference for the Union over Freedom a virtuous preference, – our excuse for yielding ~~suffering~~ so much to Slavery, "a virtuous excuse". He speaks flatteringly and coaxingly, in the ears of ~~the~~ the Slave Power; "I am no assailant of States," he says. "All of the States are parcels of my own country – the best of them not so wise and great as I am sure it will hereafter be; the States least developed and perfected (!) among them all, is wiser and better than any foreign State I know." This strikes me as the worst feature of the speech, when viewed in its real light and meaning, and because I must believe that when Mr. Seward

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